

THE

REHEARSAL.

1. More Differences betwixt the Letter and the Review. The Chancellor of Bath and Wells Vindicated.
2. An Account of the Poll at the Election at Taunton.
3. An Answer to the Objection, That it was Carry'd for the Dissenters in Westminster-Hall. With De Foe his Treatment of the Courts of Justice, and the Parliament.
4. His following Rhetorick and Round-Turn'd-Periods against the Men of Taunton Exemplify'd in a Country Roundel.
5. His Argument Confutes it self.
6. How he makes this an High-Church Quarrel.
7. The Progress of High-Church.

WEDNESDAY, July 10th 1706.

(1.) Country-man.

LET me go on now, Master, with more of the Differences there are betwixt the Review of the 18th last Month, and the Letter from Taunton. The Review says, p. 291. *It is the Customs of TAUNTON, that the Chancellor of the Diocess of Bath and Wells admits and Swears the Church-Wardens. The Letter says this is a Mistake, for that he only doth it at the Bishop's Visitation. But that the Persons Nominated by the Dissenters had not Patience to wait till the Bishop's Visitation, which was then coming on at TAUNTON, but serv'd the Chancellor with a MANDAMUS, and to make it more Affronting to him, did it, as he sat in the CONSISTORY at WELLS, and with an ALIAS, at the Bishops Visitation at TAUNTON, of which the Chancellor made a due Return. And gave the Parties a Fair and Equal Hearing on Both sides. But the Review words it thus, p. 291. Of his own Absolute Authority and Meer High-Church pleasure, Admits and Swears two—who had no manner of Pretence to an Election. And that he Refus'd the others, without any Reasons given. And thus, says he, High-Church Authority comes to Interpose, and by this, the Suffrage of the Parishioners was actually Destroy'd, Liberty of Election Dissolv'd, Majority Contemn'd, and the Minor set up in Defiance of Justice.*

Rehears. This is a Tragical account indeed! As if the Chancellor had made a Bonfire of Magna Charta, and Declar'd all the Laws and Liberties of the Nation to be Dissolv'd, and that no man hereafter shou'd have any Freedom of Election! And all this, without any Reason given, but Carry'd by Meer High-Church Authority.

Therefore I wou'd know if your Letter gives any Account of the Poll at that Election, that we may see whether the Proceedings were so Highly Arbitrary as the Review represents it!

(2.) Country-m. Yes, Master, there is an Account of the Poll in the Letter, which says, That Mr. Towill had Confessedly the Majority of Votes. And it was allow'd by the Chancellor, who Swore him Accordingly, tho' he was set up by the Dissenters. So that High-Church Authority did not Interpose here. Mr.

Newton, another that was set up by the Dissenters, had 3 Votes more than Mr. Hasket and Mr. Westcot, who had Equal Votes. But while the Poll was Casting up, before it was Cast up, and Proclamation made, 3 Men came in and Voted for Mr. Hasket and Mr. Westcot. whose Votes the Dissenting Church-Warden wou'd not Accept, alledging the Poll was shut up, but they were Accepted and Allow'd by the Warden on the Church side, for he Declar'd the Poll was not shut up. Upon this, Mr. Hasket Mr. Westcot and Mr. Newton had Equal Votes. But it Appearing that the Dissenters had brought a Person to Poll, who had no Right, as living out of the Parish, his Vote being Disallow'd, Mr. Hasket and Mr. Westcot had the Majority by One Vote. Mr. Osmonton had not only the Minister's Nomination, but the Concurrent Votes of those who Nominated Mr. Hasket and Mr. Westcot, which were many more than Mr. Parsons had. Tho' the Review says, that Mr. Osmonton had not the least Pretence to an Election. Upon this both Parties apply'd themselves to the Chancellor to be Sworn; who Deferr'd hearing the Merits of the Cause till the Visitation which was then Coming on at Taunton, when and where he heard what both Parties had to say, and after a Fair and Full Hearing in the Consistory, and several Persons proving the Matter upon Oath, as it is here stated, he at last Admitted and Swore Mr. Towill, his Election being Un-Contested, and Mr. Hasket and Mr. Westcot having Equal Votes, the former Desisted, and the Latter was Sworn, with Mr. Osmonton. The Proceedings of the Chancellor were very Candid and Sincere, one wou'd be surpriz'd to find them Censur'd by the Review, as an Arbitrary Interposition of High Church Authority, to Destroy Liberty of Election, and in Defiance of Justice. These are the words of my Letter.

(3.) But, Master, if the Cause was so, how Came it to be Carry'd otherwise in Westminster-Hall?

Rehears. How many Causes are Lost for want of Due Management? I know nothing of the Proceedings in Westminster Hall or what was Sworn there. And we are not to Doubt but Justice was done there, according to what appear'd

Appear'd to the Court. Nor wou'd it be any Reflection upon the Court, if an Appeal were brought to an Higher Court, and cho' the Cause shou'd go otherwise there. It is every Days Practise. As little Reflection is it to the Chancellor or the Consistory that this Cause was Remov'd to Westminster-Hall, where we know not but new Matter appear'd. And for a Judge or a Court to be thus Publickly Beslav'd, for what may and has Befallen every Court in Westminster-Hall, that is, Appeals to be brought, and Judgements Revers'd, is a Reflection upon'em all, and upon all the Courts and Judicatories in the Kingdom. When a Court Reverses the Judgment of an Inferior Court, do's it call the Judges such Rogues and Rascals as De Foe here do's because they were not of the same Opinion with the Superior Court? It is Common for Judges to Differ in Opinion upon the Bench. Do's one side therefore stand out in Defiance of Justice, and Dissolve all the Laws and Liberties of the Nation, and Resolve all into High-Church Arbitrary Power! As Mr. De Foe his Wordy-Repetitioning-Eloquence do's Improve it. Why are not Judges then Call'd to Account and Indicted for every Judgement they give, which shall happen afterwards to be Revers'd, and Forfeit their Lives or their Places? And who wou'd be a Judge at this Rate? But if they are to be call'd to Account, it must be by their Superiors, and not by every Little Medling Pragmatical Fellow, who shall Dare to pass Judgement upon them, and Expose them to the Haired and Contempt and Fury of the Mob! If the Administration of Justice, and Courts Established by Law may be Insulted at this Rate, it is Easy to see what Justice and Good Government can be Preserv'd in the Nation! When the Proceedings of all Courts, even of the Parliament it self, must be brought before the Ultimat Tribunal of our Sovereign Lord the People! And such Worthies as Tutchin and De Foe shall set themselves up Publickly and Avowedly as the Solicitors and Tribunes of the People, against all Governors and Governments whatsoever, that Jump not Exactly with their Good will and Pleasure! They Legion'd the last Parliament, about the Streets, and all over the Nation, even while they were Sitting! And De Foe Threatn'd this Parliament, before they Met, with Raising his Magazine of Original Power upon them, if they follow'd not the Prescriptions he had Given them! As I at that time Quoted him. And of which he has taken no Notice ever since. So it stands his Un-Alterable Maxim still! He Stroaks them upon the Head, and calls them Good Boys, when they say their Lesson well, and Please him; But he holds the Rod over their Head all the while, and tells them now and then of their Original, and his Magazine, if they Warp but a Tittle!

And from Insulting Inferior Courts that are Established by Law, (which is our Present subject) to the Supreme Court of Parliament, the Transition is Easy and Natural, with them that Derive all Power from the People. And has been, and is still their Practise, as I have shew'd.

(4.) Country-m. See how the Rhetorick of the Review do's Flow against these Gentlemen of the High-Church, as he calls them, upon

this Election at Taunton, he says, Had they Reflected on this, they wou'd not only have Desisted their Ir-Regularities, and forbore Imposing on their Neighbours, but much less wou'd they have stood the Tryal of the Law and ventur'd to Appear in a Court of Justice, in a Cause of which they knew they must have Reason to be Asham'd — They wou'd have Blushed, if so much Grace is not Deny'd them, to have been seen in a thing, equally Arbitrary, equally Scandalous, and equally Meriting Reproof. Is not this Finely Express'd? Master. It Runs as Smoothly as our Country-Roundel.

A Pudding, a Pye,
A Pudding-Pye;
A Pudding for Thee;
And a Pye for Me;
And a Pudding-Pye for Thee and Me.

Thus he Turns and Chimes a Good word, when he gets it, for a Page together, to Help out his Rhetorick! Very Equally!

(5.) Rehears. It Jingles well, and the Cadence is Sweet! But his Argument Runs not so Smooth. For if they Knew, as he says, that they must have Reason to be Asham'd of their Cause, it is to be Presum'd they wou'd not have put themselves to that Shame. Therefore we must suppose that they Knew it not, but thought their Cause was Just, And may all this be said of every one that Loses a Suit at Law? That it was Equally-Arbitrary Equally-Scandalous and Equally-Equality! No doubt there is Right and Wrong in every Cause. But must he that is Cast in his Cause be Charg'd with no Less than an open Defiance of Justice, and Dissolving all the Laws of the Land, and the Liberty of the Subject, as the Review do's Improve it against these High-Church-Men of Taunton!

(6.) Country-m. But why do's he make it an High-Church business? There was a Dispute indeed betwixt the Church-Men and the Dissenters. But there Appears nothing of High-Church in the Case. There was nothing of High and Low-Church here.

Rehears. Whoever stands up for the Church, is High-Church! I have often told you, That High and Low-Church is a Distinction these Men have Invented on Purpose to Divide the Church, and under the Name of High-Church to Blacken the Whole. And High-Church is now become an Ill Word, and may be Apply'd to any thing. If a Horse be Resty, he is an High-Church-Horse! If a Candle do's Run or Glare, 'tis a High-Church-Candle!

(7.) Country-m. If the Men of Taunton are become High-Church, if they are so much Reform'd since Monmouth's time, we may fear a General Desertion to High-Church. I wonder the Review wou'd Publish this! But I will tell you more of it next time, and Help the Review to Prove them High-Church.

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